

A is for Apple

John Lyding (L116)

As many of you know, I promised my wife that I would get to "all those boxes" in the garage when I finally retired. The great day came in July of 1995 and I really did start to organize the accumulation of covers, stamps, perfins, etc., that fill "my room." That project mixed in with much travel and a few

medical emergencies took up the first year of my retirement. The twenty-four linear feet of shelving in the garage was next on the hit list.

After much procrastination and just moving things around, I believe that I have located all the perfin covers. I did manage to sort them alphabetically and started working on the letter "A." Here are some of the catalog problems that I have come across. I have not included two items - New York State College of Agriculture (A134A) and the American Wholesale Corporation (A277) - that I will treat in separate articles. In perfin order.

Figures 1 and 2 (page 186) show photographically cropped cover fronts posted from the Hartford, Connecticut offices of Aetna Life Insurance Company. The three 1¢ green Statue of Liberty Defense Issue stamps (Figure 1) are all punched with perfin pattern A102A (AEL/Co). While the stamps appear to have been canceled with a rubber heel there is a readable CDS in the lower left showing Hartford, Conn, January 13, 1943. The three presidential stamps (Figure 2) are all punched with perfin pattern A102B (AEL/Co). This envelope

AETNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 THE AETNA CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY
 THE AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY
 THE STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

Wallace & Tiernan Co., Inc.
 11 Mill St.
 Belleville
 N.J.

Attn: David Ramsay

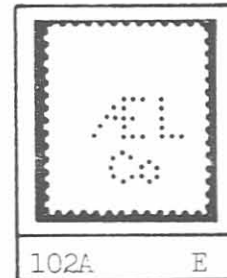
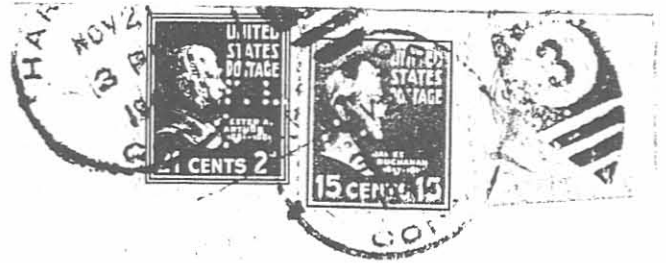
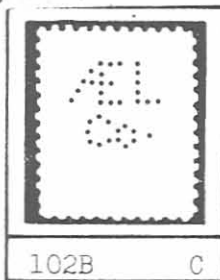


Figure 1. A102A - Aetna Life Insurance Company

AETNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 THE AETNA CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY
 THE AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY
 THE STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
 HARTFORD CONNECTICUT



Wallace & Tiernan Co., Inc.

Figure 2. A102B - Aetna Life Insurance Company

remnant was mailed to the same addressee, Wallace & Tiernan Co., Inc., two months earlier on November 21, 1942. Fortunately it is easy to measure the perfin of a stamp on cover thus eliminating A103A. Pattern A102 has a period after the "o" of company, eliminating it as a possibility. We are thus left with two Aetna Life Insurance Company patterns. In this particular case A102A (Figure 1) has no period following the "o" and A102B has a centered dot after the "o".

Very good thus far, but check the corner cards as listed in Table A. Both cards list:

Table A. List of Offices on Corner Card

Aetna Life Insurance Company
 The Aetna Casualty and Surety Company
 The Automobile Insurance Company
 The Standard Fire Insurance Company

Our reference, *The Catalog of United States Perfins*, lists "Aetna Life Insurance Co Hartford CT" as the user. There are no supplementary entries in the Appendix for these two perfins. I recommend that the next issue of the catalog list Aetna Life Insurance Company as the user of perfin patterns A102A and A102B. The remaining entities listed in Table A should receive supplementary office status in the Appendix.

A February 21, 1949, window envelope from Acme Fast Freight, Inc. is shown full size in Figure 3 (page 187). The firm's address is given as 154 Water Street, New Haven, Connecticut. An inverted AFF (Pattern A120) adorns the 3¢ purple Jefferson postage stamp. The confirmed user of pattern A120 is listed in the *Catalog* as Acme Fast Freight of Boston, MA. The Appendix lists, "Acme Tea & Storage Co; Long Island City, NY; Atlas Freight Inc., San Francisco, CA; (PM) Philadelphia,

ACME FAST FREIGHT, Inc.

154 WATER STREET
NEW HAVEN 11, CONN.

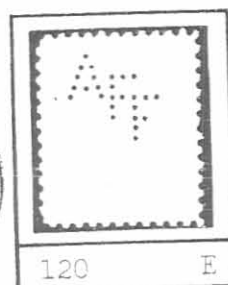


Figure 3. A120 - Acme Fast Freight, Inc. - New Haven, CT



Figure 4. A120 - Cleveland Usage

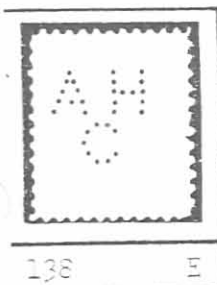
PA; and Atlanta, GA." Since the company had a presence in New Haven, CT that location should be included in the Appendix's supplementary data. Figure 4 indicates that the company also operated out of Cleveland, Ohio. However, in this case we may be on shaky ground if we insist upon entering a Cleveland, Ohio location to the supplemental data Appendix.

The corner card on the photographically cropped cover of Figure 5 states Corbin Cabinet Lock Co. The American Hardware Corporation Successor. The entry in *Catalog of United States Perfins* for perfin pattern A138 lists the confirmed user as The American Hardware Corporation Successor. The pattern (AH/C) matches that corporate name and the Corbin Cabinet Lock Company is listed in the supplementary data Appendix as one of the users of the perfin pattern. This photographically cropped envelope front establishes a second "confirmed user." Perhaps the US Catalog Editor should consider adding a confirmation asterisk (*) to entries in the supplementary data appendix of the new catalog. On the other hand, it might be well to list all the supplementary data under the main catalog entry.

The letter "S" of perfin pattern A254 is distinct. Figure 6 (page 188) illustrates the use of the ASF pattern on a strip cut from the top of a May 8, 1943, mailing from the American Steel Castings Company. The corner card provides the company's location as 410 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The problem is that the *Catalog of United States Perfins* lists the confirmed user as Amn Steel Foundries of Chicago, IL. American Steel Foundries is a better match for the pattern's ASF. This cover strip is the basis for recommending that American Steel Castings Company be given a supplementary listing in the next catalog.

There are twenty-two recorded variations of perfin pattern A270. The varieties use control holes to designate the user. Company locations have been confirmed for thirteen of the varieties including the variety used on the three stamps shown on the photographically cropped envelope strip of Figure 7 (page 188). Perfin pattern A270-11 was used in Saint Louis, MO is used on the stamps in Figure 7. The difference, in this instance, is the corporate name. The *Catalog* listing is American Type Founders Company. Figure 7 lists American Type Founders Sales Corporation, 2135 Pine Street, Saint Louis, Missouri. This variation on the users name rates supplementary listing in the next revision of the *Catalog*.

The 6 cent Presidential series stamp shown on the photographically cropped envelope strip of Figure 8 (page 188) is punched AT/LAS. The pattern is listed in the *Catalog of United States Perfins* as A271 and the confirmed user is listed as Atlas Powder Company of Wilmington, Delaware. There



The American Hardware Corporation Successor
LOCK DRAWER 1319
NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT



Figure 5. A138 - Corbin Lock Company

AMERICAN STEEL CASTINGS CO.

410 North Michigan Avenue
CHICAGO, ILL.

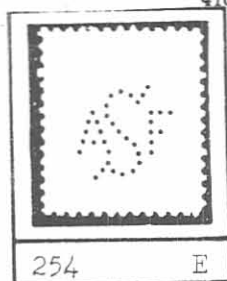


Figure 6. A254 - American Steel Castingsw Company

ATF

American Type Founders Sales Corporation

2135 Pine Street • St. Louis • Missouri

Return Postage Guaranteed

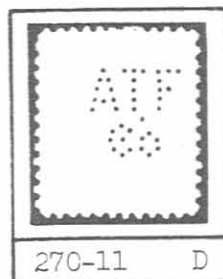


Figure 7. A270-11 - American Type Founders Sales Corporation.

ATL. 74 1500 9-42



ATLAS POWDER COMPANY

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
TAMAQUA, PA.

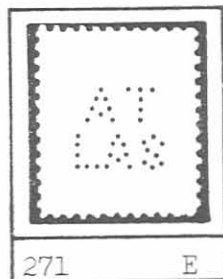


Figure 8. Atlas Powder Company

is no doubt that Figure 8 is from an envelope used by the Atlas Powder Company. The postmark is Tamaqua, PA, October 23, 1942. In addition, the return address of First National Bank Building, Tamaqua, PA leaves no doubt that this represents

a previously unrecorded location for the Atlas Powder Company. As such, Tamaqua, PA deserves a listing in the Appendix of the *Catalog* as a supplementary location.